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*Dégénérescence.* Par MAX NORDAU. Paris, 1894. 2 vols. pp. 429, 566.

This work is dedicated to Lombroso, who is called "*un des plus superbes apparitions intellectuelles du siècle.*" None of the followers of Morel have traced degeneracy in literature. Some of the current literary modes are forms of intellectual decomposition. *Fin de siècle* is not *fin du race*, but the crepuscule or twilight of the people, and suggests the approach of a chiliastic terror, like that when the first thousand years of Christendom was passed. The *fin de siècle* French boy passing a prison where his rich father was confined for the fifth time for fraud, called it papa's lycée. The *fin de siècle* police captain has a cigar and card case made out of an assassin's tanned hide. Horrible Kate Greenaway children, Zola, Ibsen, Nietzsche, Wagner, Tolstoi's Kreutzer Sonata, Paul Verlaine, the symbolists, Maeterlinck, Sarah Bernhardt, sensations unknown to the masses,—all these are degenerative stigmata. Schopenhauer and Hartmann, graphomaniacs with incapacity to act; absence of good judgment and sound common sense, excessive impressionability, a passion for useless baubles, retinal defect, dynamogenic eccentricities, hysterical giggling, precocious adolescence and old age, jactation, mystic presentiments, pre-raphaelism, æstheticism, the salvation armies of Egidy and Tolstoi, Wagner with his delusions of persecution, the neo-Catholics, to whom Parsival is a religious service,—all these things initiate hysterical people into delicious sensations, and cause idiotic ladies to roll up their eyes and cry charming, ravishing. Hypnotism, the "fourth dimension" speculations, spiritism, psychic researchers, animal magnetism, revelation of Isis, the Ethopées of M. Péladan, the idiotic echolalia of the Belgian poet, Maurice Maeterlinck, who, like Walt Whitman, was a fool, but yet a genius, — these are described as parodies of mysticisms.

The second volume is devoted to egotism and the phobias which arise from it, its self-consciousness, Gautier, Flaubert; Mendès with his theory of "sonorities;" Bourget and the "decadents;" Metesch, the delirious philosopher Baudelaire, and Ibsen, who has become a sort of popular poet laureate, as Voltaire and Victor Hugo were. Ibsen's clientele consists of women badly married, or who feel themselves not understood, are vacuous in soul and without occupation; but he is no more their friend than is Sachez-Masach, or Zola, whose realism shows us types more fit for criminal law than for the lunacy commission; the veritists, the "young German" school, William Morris, Leopardi, Lenon, Karl Marx, Karl Bleibtreu, pessimists, and most Hegelism,—all these are degenerate. The twentieth century will be better. All these morbidities will perish, and the way to effect the cure is by the cult of unselfishness. The German "alliance of men against immorality" is to grow. On the whole, the work comes nearer drawing a line between Semites and non-Semites than any book we have ever read. Israel is still the chosen people and all others are degenerate.

*Unsoundness of Mind in its Legal and Medical Considerations.* By J. W. HUME WILLIAMS, of the Middle Temple, Barrister at Law, London. New York, 1892, pp. 179.

When Beccaria said: "The happiest of all nations is that in which the laws have not become a science," he hit the present state of the question of legal medicine. Common sense still needs to be heard from in determining mental unsoundness and fixing the degrees of responsibility. This should not become a purely legal question, at

any rate. It is probably impossible to fix upon any act so vicious and eccentric that, taken by itself, it could prove insanity, unless it be an involuntary result of neural disease. He must not build theories from above downward, like the architects of Laputa. Medical experts have little weight with juries, and the author would not submit questions of sanity to experts, nor distinguish very sharply between mental, moral or legal insanity. Goethe was right that nothing brings us nearer to insanity than distinguishing ourselves above others, and nothing keeps us sane better than general intercourse with many and often common people. Monomanias, moral and impulsive forms of insanity, which make most trouble in courts, are fullest treated.

*Psychiatrische Vorlesungen.* Von V. MAGNAN. Leipsic, Heft I., 1891; II., and III., 1892; IV., and V., 1893.

These between three and four hundred pages of the distinguished Belgian alienist contain all his more original papers, about twenty in number, and are translated into German by P. J. Möbius. Most were originally printed from students' notes. Professor Magnan, as is well known, has won his enviable reputation chiefly by his valuable work on the border-line phenomena and cases. It is impossible to do justice to these meaty papers in a brief notice. The best of them, to our thinking, are the lectures on chronic delirium with systematic evolution, which the German school prefer to call *paranoia completa*. His study of degenerate types has never been surpassed. Sexual aberrations, dipsomania, the childhood of criminals, morbid impulses to purchase things, gambling, onomatomania, intermittent phenomena, hallucinations of the right and left brain, heredity,—these are some of the special topics. The author is at his best in casuistic analysis, where, if he is not so minute as Kandinski, his penetration extends in more directions. Our own American Dr. Cowles, however, compares favorably with either of them, so far as he has published.

*Ueber die Bedeutung der psychiatrischen Unterrichts für Heilkunde.* Antrittsrede in Utrecht. DR. C. WINKLES. 1894, pp. 92.

The psychiatrist fights degeneration and to correct heredity. He must touch hands with the general practitioner on the one hand and with the spiritual office on the other. Degeneration on all hands, due to alcohol, opium, prostitution, anti-hygienic lives, abounds more and more. Every medical student must study psychiatry and hygiene. Doctors used to treat diseases as ontological entities, now they treat patients. They must learn to individualize; and their motto must be *minister non magister naturæ*. Not only persons but individuals are unique. Bertillon never failed to identify his man among 120,000 by the few small parts of the body he tested. Most individual is the nervous system. Psychiatry is no longer unskilled labor, but it has not yet attained due prominence in medical education. Defenses of it have been usually regarded as *oratio pro domo*. Science must not ride so high a horse that it cannot see the ground under it. Doctors have lectured at the sick bed on the anatomy of the brain, general psychology, pathology and even philosophy. Experts differ nowhere so much in court as on questions of sanity. Materialists and spiritualists as such are an anachronism. It was psychiatrists like Meynert, Forel, Gudden, Charcot and Flechsig who gave us the key to the architecture of the brain, and not the anatomists. The sick bed must not be neglected for the laboratory. The old divisions of diseases into